

would have voted "yes"; rollcall vote 369, on Passage of H.R. 739, the Occupational Safety and Health Small Business Day in Court Act, I would have voted "yes"; rollcall vote 370, on Passage of H.R. 740, the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission Efficiency Act, I would have voted "yes"; rollcall vote 371, on Passage of H.R. 740, the Occupational Safety and Health Independent Review of OSHA Citations Act, I would have voted "yes" and rollcall vote 372, on Passage of H.R. 740, the Occupational Safety and Health Small Employer Access to Justice Act of 2005, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 11, 2005, the U.S. House of Representatives considered two bills under suspension of the rules: H. Con. Res. 168—Condemning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the abductions and continued captivity of citizens of the Republic of Korea and Japan as acts of terrorism and gross violations of human rights; and H. Res. 333—Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to travel to Washington, DC on Monday because the Jackson-Evers International Airport in Jackson, Mississippi, from which I usually travel to DC, was closed due to the recent landfall of Hurricane Dennis. However, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" in favor of both resolutions.

HONORING SPC CHRISTOPHER LEE HOSKINS

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the service and sacrifice of a brave young soldier from my district, SPC Christopher Lee Hoskins, who gave his life in the cause of freedom and democracy in Iraq. I also pay tribute to SPC Hoskins' family, who raised this fine young man in an environment of loving care and who supported his decision to serve his country in uniform in Iraq.

On June 21, Army SPC Christopher Hoskins, of Killingly, Connecticut, was killed in Ramadi, Iraq, after his unit came under small arms fire west of Baghdad. The death of SPC Hoskins, who was a member of the Army's 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, marked the 25th death of a Connecticut soldier in the war in Afghanistan and the Middle East.

SPC Hoskins was 21 years old. He, along with so many other fine young men and women from across our Nation, was serving America and the cause of freedom by fighting terrorism and helping to bring stability to a part of the world that for far too long has known mainly violence and misery.

SPC Hoskins graduated from Killingly High School in 2001. He enlisted in the Army in

2003. He had recently re-enlisted for another four years.

In many ways, SPC Hoskins was typical of most American youths. His friends recalled that he was generous and polite; he enjoyed listening to Metallica; he played chess and was a member of his high school wrestling team; he enjoyed painting and he worked the cameras at school plays.

And in many ways he was typical of the men and women who preceded him as members of our Nation's armed forces. This was a young man who wanted to serve a cause larger than himself.

This was a young man who did not have to place himself in harm's way but volunteered to do so in service to our Nation, our people and the way of life that we treasure. America is a better place because of young men like Army SPC Christopher Hoskins.

We cannot repay the debt we owe Christopher Hoskins; we can only honor him and his family. And we do.

Memorial Day was set aside as the day when Americans remember those who left their homes, families and jobs to defend our Nation—and never returned. But our men and women in uniform defend freedom every day, and every day there are those who pay the ultimate price for their selflessness. It would be highly appropriate if we took a moment out of every day to honor and remember the men and women who stand between America and those who would do her harm.

Today, July 14, 2005 SPC Hoskins was interred at Arlington National Cemetery overlooking Washington, D.C. with full military honors. He will posthumously receive a Purple Heart for his wounds and a Bronze Star for his valor. SPC Hoskins will rest in good company, among others who answered the call to duty, honor and country.

We pray that the service and sacrifice of SPC Hoskins will remind us of the high cost which is paid by those who love our freedom, who believe in our democracy and who give their best to defend the best Nation on Earth. May God rest his soul.

FREEDOM FOR ALEJANDRO GONZÁLEZ RAGA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Alejandro González Raga, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. González Raga is an independent journalist and a contributor to the Camagüey Press Agency. As an independent journalist in a totalitarian Cuba, Mr. González Raga's truthful articles have helped the world to learn the facts about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. Because of his belief in factual reporting, Mr. González Raga relentlessly chronicled the atrocities committed by Castro's machinery of repression. I remind my colleagues that, under Castro's totalitarian regime, any freedom of the press, any effort to display the atrocities of the regime under the spotlight of truth, is met with swift and violent repression.

In March, 2003, Mr. González Raga was arrested as part of the dictatorship's heinous

crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists. According to Reporters Without Borders, as part of his sham trial, Mr. González Raga was accused of "cooperating with the foreign press," and of "systematically endangering territorial integrity" by writing reports on subjects considered "very sensitive" by the dictatorship such as "shortages due to the economic crisis, relations with other countries, TV programs, the education budget." He was sentenced to 14 years in Castro's dungeons for these "crimes."

Let me be very clear, Mr. González Raga is currently languishing in the depraved conditions of the totalitarian gulag for his truthful articles. The U.S. State Department describes the conditions in the gulag as, "harsh and life threatening." The State Department also reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners. It is a crime of the highest order that people are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions simply for reporting the facts.

Mr. Speaker, it is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, independent journalists who write the truth about totalitarian regimes are systematically tortured. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Alejandro González Raga and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

MONMOUTH COUNTY'S BEN DANKIN CELEBRATES 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my best and warmest wishes to a good friend and constituent, Mr. Benjamin H. Danskin, who today celebrates his 80th birthday.

Ben Danskin has been a key figure in government service, public advocacy and business development in Monmouth County, New Jersey for more than 50 years. He is respected, admired and well-liked by colleagues, associates and former political rivals. His family and close friends are inspired by his wit, good nature, character, charisma and kindness.

Born and raised in Spring Lake, New Jersey, Ben and his older brother, Clyde, learned the importance of public service through their father's example. Their father, Benjamin S. Danskin, was a realtor with Horatio Clayton Real Estate and Insurance, which he later bought and named the Danskin Agency. Successful in business, Benjamin S. Danskin also succeeded in the public arena. He served as the Secretary of the State Division of Tax Appeals, President of the New Jersey Association of Tax Commissioners, and Deputy Director of Taxation, assisting in the creation of the state tax equalization program. Government service would become a family trait.

In September 1943, young Ben Danskin joined the Army as a Lieutenant and began training to become a B-25 bomber pilot. When World War II ended, Ben enrolled in the Dickinson College to pursue a degree in political

science. He graduated in 1949 and moved back to Wall Township with his wife, Betty Joan Slockbower, who had been his high school sweetheart. In April of this year, Ben and Joan celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary—and they are the proud parents of three loving daughters: Cathy, Nancy, and Barbara.

Upon his return from the war, Ben immediately invested himself in his community and embarked upon a life-long commitment to distinguished public service. He joined his father at the Danskin Agency and was elected to the Wall Township Committee. At the age of 27, Ben was appointed as the Mayor of Wall Township, the youngest mayor in township history. In 1963, Ben Danskin was elected as a Monmouth County Freeholder and he served as such until 1969 when he was elected to a five-year term as the Monmouth County Clerk. He was appointed to his first three-year term as Monmouth County Treasurer in 1974. He was reappointed in 1977, replaced by a Democratic freeholder majority in 1980, but reappointed to the treasurer's post in 1983, once the GOP regained the majority on the board. Just last December, 2004, Ben Danskin stepped down from the position of Monmouth County Treasurer after 21 years of consecutive service.

From 1969 to 1982, Ben Danskin led the Monmouth County Republican Committee as its Chairman. He has remained influential in the party throughout his illustrious career. A genuine leader, Ben Danskin has helped launch critical county initiatives and shape public policy through thoughtful, substantive persuasion. He continues to be sought out for his wise counsel and advice.

Though he would not like it discussed, there are lasting tributes to Ben Danskin's hard work and public service. He is credited with a leading role in the establishment of Brookdale Community College, the creation of the Monmouth County Correctional Institution, and the expansion of the Monmouth County park system, just to name a few. Ten of thousands of Monmouth residents continue to benefit from the programs Ben Danskin helped conceive and nurture during his years of public service.

On the business side, Ben counts his co-founding of Allaire Community Bank in 1996 as one of his most successful endeavors. The bank thrived and was recently bought out by Central Jersey Bank.

Ben Danskin's public career is admirable not only for its demonstration of commitment and longevity but more so for the impact he has had on so many positive initiatives for the people of Monmouth County. Happy 80th Birthday, Ben Danskin. On behalf of our mutual friends and constituents, I offer our deepest gratitude for your years of dedicated service and commitment to the public good.

TRIBUTE TO THE REPUBLIC OF CAPE VERDE

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to the Republic of Cape Verde. July 5, 2005 marks the 30th anniversary of this island nation's independence

from Portugal and it will be celebrated by Cape Verdeans worldwide.

After an almost 20-year struggle for improved economic, social and political conditions, on July 5, 1975, under the leadership of revolutionary Amílcar Cabral, the Republic of Cape Verde emerged a country with strong economic aspirations and a commitment to the continuance of a fair and equitable society.

In 1991, the Republic of Cape Verde transitioned from a single political party to a multi-party system with no conflicts or civil unrest.

Located approximately 385 miles off the West African coast, this 10 island archipelago has developed into a key center for regional and international investment. The country's monetary and fiscal policies have made this young nation a showcase for the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The United States, through the Millennium Challenge Corporation, recently signed a historic 5-year Compact in excess of \$110 million with the Republic of Cape Verde to support the country's goal of poverty reduction and economic growth. This agreement is a testament to Cape Verde's strong commitment to transparency and good governance, and to putting in place a policy framework that uses aid effectively.

The official language of the Republic of Cape Verde is Portuguese, but the population speaks a crioulo dialect. The rich crioulo musical and poetic tradition is filled with old fashioned stories of love, exotic journeys and family.

In the mid-19th century, Cape Verdeans were renowned for being great seafaring people, skilled in whaling and craftsmanship in the repair of ships. As a result, many Cape Verdeans settled in different parts of the world.

It is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Republic of Cape Verde on this occasion.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION TO COMMEND THE PHILADELPHIA COALITION FOR ITS AP- PROACH TO ERADICATING RAC- ISM AND INTOLERANCE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a concurrent resolution to commend the Philadelphia Coalition for its principled, open, and integrated approach to eradicating racism and intolerance, and for its determination to confront the past and work toward the future.

On June 21, 1964, three brave, upright, and honorable men—James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner—all members of a coalition of civil rights organizations known as the Council of Federated Organizations, drove to Neshoba County, Mississippi to investigate the racially motivated June 16, 1964 burning of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Longdale, Mississippi and the assault on its members. After meeting with members of the Mount Zion congregation, the three civil rights workers were pulled over by a sheriff's deputy in Philadelphia, Mississippi. They were de-

tained on suspicion of burning the same Mount Zion church—a church that, according to later testimony, was burned by Ku Klux Klansmen specifically to lure Mr. Chaney and Mr. Schwerner to Neshoba County. This false charge was clearly fabricated and represented a deliberate attempt to intimidate the young advocates. Unfortunately, it was only the beginning.

What transpired next would change the county, State, and Nation itself. At 10:30 p.m. that night, the men were released and ordered to leave town. However, on the road back to Meridian, Mississippi, Mr. Chaney, Mr. Goodman, and Mr. Schwerner were tailed and subsequently overtaken by a mob of white men. The throng, comprised of law enforcement officials and Ku Klux Klansmen, pulled the three men from their car, drove them to an empty gravel road, and brutally murdered them.

This unconscionable, unprovoked, and vicious attack was coordinated by Edgar Ray Killen, an active member of the Ku Klux Klan. Yet Mr. Killen was not initially brought to justice. He was tried in 1967 for the murders he coordinated, but was not found guilty because one jury member refused to convict a preacher. The truth is, however, that an all-white jury was never going to convict a white man of a racial crime in Philadelphia in 1964, particularly one involving the Ku Klux Klan. The Klan was revered, and even during the 2005 trial, former Philadelphia mayor Harlan Majure stated that the Ku Klux Klan was a “peaceful organization” that did much good for Mississippi.

For 41 years, after orchestrating the murder of these three men, Mr. Killen walked the streets of Mississippi, free from prosecution and legal repercussions. For 41 years, the families of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner lived in an America that had not afforded them justice. For 41 years, these murders served as a poignant reminder that without action, racism and prejudice will persist, even in this great country.

In March 2005, however, all that began to change, as a task force of city, county, and tribal leaders joined together to form the Philadelphia Coalition. The Coalition was charged with commemorating the lives of the three slain young men. But the Philadelphia Coalition did not merely coordinate a public commemoration, they took a stand for justice, integration, and equality. Demonstrating that it is never too late for justice to be served, the Coalition successfully lobbied for Mr. Killen to be re-tried for the murders he orchestrated. On June 21, 2005, 41 years to the day after his heinous crime and as a direct result of the efforts of the Philadelphia Coalition, Edgar Ray Killen was convicted on three counts of manslaughter.

The real success of the Philadelphia Coalition, however, was not the legal battle. Their true achievement was to strike at the heart of the bigotry and intolerance that Mr. Killen and the Ku Klux Klan represent. Mr. Speaker, the Philadelphia Coalition, significantly, is a multi-racial task force. The Coalition actively integrated black, white, and Choctaw Indian men and women into its ranks. This organizational model of ethnic understanding and racial tolerance, more so than their legal triumph, can and must serve as a model and example for individuals and organizations not only in Mississippi, but throughout the United States. It is imperative that today we learn from their example and that we commend their actions.